

# WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE.

## THE

# INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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## Slams and Jabs.

By JAYBES.

One of the very interesting news items of this week is the report of the American "Committee of Public Information" dealing with "America's first year of war."

This should be of special interest to all those who are interested in peace. President Wilson says the Americans have entered the war "to make the world safe for Democracy." So be it. Remember! When you look over the figures it all represents wealth produced by the working class of America and robbed from them by the flappers of "Old Glory" in "The land of the brave and the home of the free."

The Government has expended 12,067,278,679 dollars. The army has increased from 212,034 to 1,652,725. The navy has increased from 82,338 to 351,000. The air service has been increased from 1185 to 8,295. They have produced 23,000,000 hand grenades, 725,000 automatic pistols, 250,000 revolvers, 23,000,000 projectiles for heavy artillery, 427,000,000 lb. explosives, 240,000 machine guns and 2,484,000 rifles.

The Naval appropriations, real or now pending, amounted to 3,333,471,665 dol.

BUT WHY ALL THESE FIGURES? That's just it! The total receipts of the American Government in 1910 was 931,314,665 dollars. Compare this with the present expense due to war, and then ask yourself where all this is going to come from. The Victorian Socialist Party will tell you that the workers pay the taxes, so will the Labor Party politician, but how in the name of all that's true can the workers pay interest on an amount equal to what they will receive in wages. This huge debt in America is built up on the productive power of the American working class; it has nothing else behind it but the brain and brawn of the working class, and if the interest on this enormous debt is to be paid at all, and I sincerely hope it won't, it is to come out of the workers where they work, i.e., in the mills, mines, factories, fields and workshops. What is the solution? We are always told that we show how bad things are, but never give a solution. The political Socialist has no solution, but the revolutionary industrial Socialist has the one and only solution, and that is the banding together of the workers into a great Revolutionary Union of Industry where they will be organised to take and hold the means of production for the benefit of all wealth producers. Start now by joining the Workers' International Industrial Union. We need you, and you need us.

The Governor-General has called a conference! A CONFERENCE!! And to that Conference has been invited Frank Tudor, the Leader (give me breath!) of the Labor (?) (more breath!) Party. Frank says when he receives the invitation he will go, and we do not doubt his word: in fact, if he hadn't represented Yarra (one of the strongest working class constituencies in Australia) he would have gone long ago. This is to be a recruiting conference. The Presidents of the various Trades Hall Councils are to be invited. Mr. Hughes will be there. The merchants and manufacturers will also be there. The Premiers of the various States will be there. The leaders of the various Oppositions will be there. In fact they will all be there, except the man who is going to the front—the worker. We will watch with keen interest the results of this Conference, and perhaps we will be able to fill a couple of pages in our scrap book—NEVER FORGET THE SCRAP BOOK BOYS. When you see anything like this, make a note of it for patriotic purposes and future reference. Send a note of it to Russia and tell them there that Anstey is still a Labor

Party politician, and Foster still hopes to be Attorney-General of Australia on the Labor Party ticket.

General Foch, Generalissimo of the Allied forces in France, expresses the opinion that "THE FUTURE IS OURS." I wonder if the Generalissimo is a Socialist. That is exactly our position, Mr. Foch—whoever you may be—"The future IS ours." That is the battle cry of Revolutionary Socialism, that is the slogan that has prompted men to noble deeds and fearless acts, it was just that knowledge that inoculated the spirit of determination into the minds of the Russian Bolsheviks and drove them "on and on till break of day."

"Beneath the rule of men entirely great the pen is mightier than the sword." So it would seem! They are handing out swords and supporting the men who use them, and on the other hand they are curtailing pens and suppressing the men who use them—provided they are using them in the interests of the working class. The pen will close this war, and through the pen the workers will yet come together as one nation, leaving the capitalists to form a nation of their own, where they can rob one another by charging high prices.

The working class interpretation of patriotism should be: The abolition of the cause of poverty, crime, disease and prostitution, that is capitalism. We, therefore, are the only true patriots worth while. To attempt to destroy German militarism without destroying the things for which militarism is instituted is the work of utopian dreamers. We of the revolutionary movement never worry our heads about effects: we are out to remove the cause and that is the private ownership of the means of life. When the workers accept that kind of patriotism war will be no more.

The Germans were three hours from Petrograd three weeks ago, and still they are not there yet. We are bound to believe the press statements, however, when we learn that "General Bolshevik is giving his support to the extremists" (Melbourne "Age") and "M. Bolshevik, the reactionary leader is raising forces to assist the revolution" (Melbourne "Herald.") I suppose they know by this time what this Mr. Bolshevik really is, and what he intends to do. "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise," but ignorance in this case is blisters to capitalism.

Any pious judge who retires in Australia is granted a pension of £1500 per year. There's no doubt about capitalism looking after its own. Under Socialism when a citizen has given his energy to society and is retired from the industrial army he will get more than that; he will then have all the good things the world has produced, no more potter fields staring him in the face, no more workhouses to grin and leer at his grey hairs, and no more "pious judges" to wax fat parasitically on his agony. Socialism means much to you fellow worker, it means LIFE.

Surplus value up to date—  
The merchant calls it profit,  
As he heaves a heavy sigh;  
The banker calls it interest,  
As he winks the other eye;  
The landlord calls it rent,  
As he tucks it in his bag;  
But the honest old burglar  
He simply calls it swag.

### A CANADIAN LAW.

Ottawa, 6th April.  
An Order in Council suppressing idleness has been passed by the Federal Government. It insists on every male person under 60 and over 16 being occupied in some useful occupation. Fine, with imprisonment, is provided in default.

How things do change. I was in Canada when the "Financial Panic" broke out in 1908 and saw more dinner times than dinners. Jobs were as scarce as hen's

teeth. Competition in the labor market was keen. Wages were low. I saw men under 60 and over 16 scrambling for a chance to toil, which they were denied. Now, we are told, men who do not follow "some useful occupation" is to be fined or imprisoned. If this law is followed out to the letter we may expect to find all the Canadian politicians, lawyers, brokers, and real estate sharks behind prison bars, or perhaps sweeping crossings, which is a far more useful occupation than they are now following.

Under capitalism there will always be unemployment. Any law passed by capitalist class politicians to fill the need of the hour cannot alter what capitalism produces in the shape of jobless wage slaves. The only way by which all men will be compelled to do their share of the world's work will be when the means of production are the socially owned by those who socially use them. This is to be accomplished by the workers uniting into ONE GREAT REVOLUTIONARY INDUSTRIAL UNION for the purpose of taking and holding the means whereby they live—the means of production and distribution. The machine age is upon you, and your little craft union can no longer meet the needs of your class. Think and act quickly, for there is no saying what to-morrow may bring forth. Join the W.I.U., the only fighting class union in Australia. For further particulars write to the Gen. Sec., Hattie's Arcade, Newtown, N.S.W.

I, along with several other patriotic friends of mine, attended a "Loyalist" demonstration held in the Exhibition Building (Melbourne) the other evening. It was a rip-snorting affair. There must at least have been three or four million people present, all of whom carried flags and other emblems of loyalty.

Big, husky patriots with lusty voices, with my assistance, almost cheered the war to a successful conclusion. We heartily cursed Dr. Mannix for the cowardly part he played in the recent conscription issue; and his disloyal references to the cause of this war for freedom, liberty, and justice; we almost passed resolutions asking that the Federal Government immediately take steps to have him deported, and that every Catholic in Australia be interned under the Defence of the Protestant's Federation Act. There were a few disloyalists in the building who were eventually removed by the police, in fact, we arranged beforehand that all those who didn't decide to cheer when we cheered would be thrown out bodily: needless to say this arrangement worked admirably. We sang God Save, and waved our flags; at this juncture the cheering was deafening. We also sang "God Save the Boys," several of the disloyal element near me were heard to remark, "Workers of the world unite and save yourselves"—they were put out. "Australia will be there," was the signal for wild uproar, even the cracked voices of the aged bald-headed patriots from Flinders lane were heard amidst the tumult. The women of the "Women's National League" went almost frantic with joy, several fainted with sheer fatigue, but were hastily brought round by the beautiful air of the final "God Save." Another demonstration of this description, and we may safely predict that the war will be won, and that the impending "big push" will be a huge success.

"Be discreet, but with discretion urge to quickest action;  
Be discreet, but dread delay, the canker-worm of duty."

"The time is not yet ripe," has been the cry of the labor fakir and craft union official for the past half century. For them the time is never ripe, for in the ripeness of time they would lose their jobs, and they are the most job-conscious traitors on the planet. We of the revolutionary movement "urge to quickest action," and we "dread delay." The time was never more ripe for industrial unionism than it is to-day. Wages workers, be no longer misled by these bulwarks of

capitalism—the craft union officials. Join the union of your class.

"SOCIALISM IS GOING TO BREAK UP THE HOME." So says the "Manufacturers' Journal." This is, and has been, the cry of the slimy politician and hypocritical rogues who masquerade under the cloak of Christ the proletarian.

Yes! Socialism will break up some of the homes the workers are now compelled to live in under capitalism. Socialism will demolish the hovels of Richmond and Collingwood, and replace them with homes worth while.

The workers build and decorate homes for others, and live in shanties. Under Socialism they will build homes for themselves.

"Socialism will dissolve the marriage tie"—IT WILL BRING ABOUT AN IMMORALITY NEVER BEFORE HEARD OF." So we learn from another follower of the Carpenter. This writer must have been an army chaplain with the forces in France where they are offering £40 for the first child, £60 for the second, and £80 for the third in or out of wedlock. But the reverend gent, must remember that France is a capitalist country. Socialism alone will create a morality worth while. It will make woman economically free, and in that status woman will not be compelled to sell her soul for the price of bread. When last I was in London I saw women plying for hire in the shadows of St. Paul's Cathedral, such a thing could not be possible under Socialism.

A prominent doctor gives the following advice: "Walk a mile before breakfast and scare up an appetite." I wonder what kind of reception he would receive if he happened along at one of the unemployed meetings in the Trades Hall?

Here's the bill of fare for the average worker's wife:—

Monday—Washing.  
Tuesday—Ironing.  
Wednesday—Mending.  
Thursday—General clean up.  
Friday—Rug beating and window cleaning.  
Saturday—More scrubbing.  
Sunday—Cooking overtime.

This sort of thing will continue until the workers get together into one big INDUSTRIAL UNION OF THEIR CLASS—which aims at the overthrow of the system that perpetuates these domestic outrages.

Sir William Irvine is now Chief Justice. O Justice! What crimes are committed in thy name.

It has been said that there is honor amongst thieves, but I am hardly inclined to believe it—they are not any better than the average banker, lawyer or politician.

A reporter for one of the daily papers was interviewing the secretary of a Senate Committee the other day for the purpose of gathering material for a biography of one of our leading senators. "What shall I say about his trustworthiness," asking the reporter. "Oh," replied the secretary, "it will be sufficient if you just say he was true to his trust." "Which trust?" queried the faithful scribe.

The Bolshevik Ambassador in London has been ejected from the Embassy Office in spite of his having paid rent for a long term in advance. It seems "the most serious feature of M. Litvinoff's tenancy was the constant procession of people visiting him." Bolshevik propaganda is spreading, and hence the masters at 'Ome are getting alarmed. The noble Duke of Westminster is probably the landlord, and naturally he fears that such propaganda might lead the British worker to emulate his brother in Russia, and end the existence of landlords, as parasites. They would then have to go to work.



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## Slowing Down.

J. A. DAWSON.

Comments have been made on the recent article in the "I.S." on "The W.I.U. attitude towards Beeby's Bill," which was signed official. It is alleged that the Workers' International Industrial Union is advocating the I.W.W. slogan of "slow down on the job."

Let us be quite clear on this point. Certain ones of the I.W.W. advocated slowing down as the cure for unemployment—that is, the less work each man did, then all the more work for those unemployed. Anyone with a knowledge of economics immediately sees the fallacy of such teaching. What the W.I.U. advocated was, in the event of industrial dispute, when the ordinary strike is undesirable, then a slow down strike or an irritation strike may be effective in gaining what is demanded. Just as an ordinary strike is only temporary, so also a slow down strike can only be a temporary tactic. If the workers are organised sufficiently to slow down all the time—then they should demand a reduction in the number of hours worked per day.

A general slow down permanently would gain nothing for the working class. At best slowing down is only passive resistance. What an organisation has to show is that its tactics can get something for the working class, and what is of greater importance still, it must be able to hold its gains.

We have had militant working class organisations. In 1890 the Broken Hill miners were able to force better conditions from the boss, but the boss was able to take them back again in 1892, then a long struggle commenced, and only last year (1917) were the miners of Broken Hill able to regain what they lost in 1892. The question again arises, will they be able to hold their present gains?

The I.W.W. plan of organisation was all right. Where the I.W.W. was faulty was in tactics.

The Hindoos in India work slow, but that does not improve their condition.

I have heard I.W.W. men advocate slowing down, and so put the boss on the bum. Now let us examine such teaching. When a boss is ruined in business and becomes bankrupt, what the I.W.W. so picturesquely term on the bum, do the workers come into the ownership of the business? No, they don't. But often there is a period of unemployment while a reconstruction takes place, and as the official W.I.U. article stated "it is the number of unemployed outside who put the pace up."

As far as the slow down strike is concerned, the W.I.U. has always advocated tactics such as working up to the rules strictly during a railway dispute, recognising that such tactics would disorganise transport even more effectively than a straight out strike.

No doubt the I.W.W. originally advocated straight and sensible tactics, but

In dealing with the woman question in all its many phases, it is, of course, inevitable that we come up against the problem of prostitution. It would be difficult indeed not to do so, seeing that, especially since the war, the evil is increasing by leaps and bounds, and in conjunction with its ghastly attendant venereal disease, is stalking naked through our midst.

Much has been written and said on the subject; many and varied have been the remedies offered for its cure; but, while they hold up their hands in horror at the woman who gains her living on the street and make vain attempts to stay the progress of vice, the average reformers close their eyes to another and almost more pernicious form of prostitution which was never more prevalent than at the present time.

It is with this particular aspect of the vast subject that we wish to deal.

It is undoubtedly a lamentable fact that a large percentage of the girls employed in large cities to-day, although they would hold aloof in disgust from the professional woman of the street, nevertheless have "friends" who take them about, give them a good time, and provide them with clothes that they could not otherwise procure, and who receive the payment they desire in return.

This, as we say, is largely carried on for the purpose of obtaining a few of the pleasures and little luxuries that make life worth living; but in some cases it is practised occasionally when some necessity is absolutely essential, and cannot be procured out of the wages earned.

The cause of this is apparent, here we have in the large industrial centres all over the world girls employed in factories, stores, as waitresses in cafes, sweating over sewing machines, bending over noisy typewriters, and receiving in return wages scarcely enough to keep body and soul together. Is it to be marvelled at, then, that some of them drop under the strain, and catch at the only way of augmenting their scanty earnings by occasionally falling from the path of virtue? For "virtue often trips and falls on the sharp-edged rocks of poverty."

The capitalist who offers his aid to all the reforms for prostitution and babbles about "licensed houses," complacently counts his ill-gotten wealth, and shuts his eyes to the conduct of the girls in his employ; at least, that last is not true, he doesn't shut his eyes, because in most cases he actually connives at it.

From America we have the account of

such a looseness crept in and such lack of discipline resulted that the medley of measures advocated in contradiction to the principle basis of their organisation merely resulted in hot air. It does not matter how perfect the plan of organisation is, unless there is knowledge and a disciplined cohesion of agitation and tactics shown, then even a perfect form of organisation can degenerate into a mere rabble, and a babel of voices. Enthusiasm is a good thing, but it must be disciplined. Militant boneheads can be just as big a nuisance as the mugs they try to educate. It is no use being a "true blue rebel" and determined to tap the boss in his pocket book every chance you get, unless, and it is a big unless, it is the main thing, unless you gain to the workers themselves portion of that surplus value of which the boss robs you. Mere destruction of that surplus value gains nothing for the working class so far as bettering their condition in society is concerned. What the workers want is to enjoy for their own use and pleasure that surplus value which the boss robs them of. The workers do not enjoy it for their own use if it is merely destroyed.

Practically everybody tries to slow down now. Men are naturally lazy. That is why the most effective form of speeding up is to improve machinery to such a point that very little human labor is required.

The "Australasian Manufacturer" says that "broadly speaking work has been the greatest civilising force in the his-

## "Casual" Prostitution.

## Its Cause and Effects.

By MARCIA.

when the girls employed in a certain store asked for more wages, they were told that if the amount received was not sufficient to go and find a "gentleman friend."

In support of these statements, we quote here a few extracts from the findings of the "Illinois Senate Vice Committee."

This Committee was composed of senators headed by Lieutenant-Governor Barratt O'Hara, and the following is included in their report: "Part of the testimony of Mrs. Louise Bowen:—

Do you think that low wages has ever caused, directly or indirectly, a girl to go wrong?

A: Oh, yes, I know, because we have a great many instances where we have cases of girls going wrong directly attributable to that cause. I believe it is a factor in the matter.

Q: Have you known of any girl of any specific case, who went wrong because she was paid a starvation wage?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Do you know of cases where she sold herself for money?

A: Yes, Sir, I know of one case; she was hungry; she hadn't had anything to eat for a long time.

Mrs. G. Howe Brittain says under oath:—

"A girl came to my office and told me she was in a very bad condition physically, and she didn't know what to do. I took her to a doctor, and found that she needed medical attention. She was infected with venereal disease. She did not look like a girl who was a street girl, or who ever could be, and I talked to her, and she told me that she had been getting 6 dollars a week at the Boston Store and could earn no more. She had to have a pair of shoes. She tried to save her money, but she had not been able to save enough to get her a pair of shoes, and in her extremity she thought she would do it just for once, that she might have this pair of shoes with this result."

Another witness says:—

"They cannot pay their own expenses on the wages they get in stores, factories and offices. They haven't enough clothes to wear to make a good appearance or be comfortable. Nine out of ten fall for the sake of companionship, clothing and food."

tory of the world," but that is not correct. It is the constant effort to lighten toil, and lessen the amount of work necessary for our existence, that has enabled man to have more leisure for pleasure and enjoyment, it is the effort to lighten toil and lessen work that's made inventors and scientists. It is the effort to banish thoughts of work from their minds that has driven man's thoughts to poetry and art, to the pursuit of beauty. This is seen in the shrinking of artistic natures away from all signs of brutal toil.

It is the revolt also against brutal toil that has led to the protests such as the I.W.W. protest against hard work and unremitting labor. We are in full sympathy with the aims and aspirations of our brothers of the I.W.W.; but we do not agree with all their tactics.

But we have a common enemy, the capitalists, and any legitimate move to gain something real and tangible for the working class, and so be a step forward to Labor's emancipation will always have the full support of the members of the Workers' International Industrial Union, whether such a move originate in the Trades Hall or from the I.W.W.

As an educative organisation, the W.I.U. is only doing its duty to the working class in speaking out straight and fearless to both friend and foe.

The W.I.U. is for Labor, and Labor alone.

L. R. Steele, manager of the Kim Five and Ten Cent Store on State street, Chicago, admits that he employs girls at less than they could live on. "It is a commercial proposition with us," he says.

The report is a long one, and there is not space to quote more here.

Sufficient has been printed, however, to show the state of affairs in one capitalist country, at least, and capitalists varies very little, slightly better, slightly worse, but it is the same worn out miserable, hellish system everywhere.

These cases prove clearly that such a evil is common, and its effects are disastrous.

It is this particular form of prostitution which assists so greatly in the spreading of the "red plague." Besides having vice, we have also ignorance, and the two evils combined, perform the frightful work only too well.

The average professional prostitute is by no means ignorant, so far as hygiene is concerned. We do not mean that she has studied many books on the subject, or that she is a martyr of learning but the fact remains, hideous and revolting though it may be, that she sells her body in order to live, and to her own interest, from a commercial viewpoint that body should be clean and healthy, and she spares no pains to make it so, or to find out ways of keeping it so; consequently there is less danger of the contraction of venereal disease.

How different is it with the average working girl, innocent or ignorant, who is to prevent her falling into the trap so skilfully baited.

To many of these girls venereal disease is only a name, to others not even that; and thus the vile scourge creeps in its insidious way unchecked. When the disease is contracted, many girls do not realise from what they are suffering, and following on that, more harm is worked.

This grim fact stares us in the face, and where are your reformers now? Where is their remedy for this great evil? Will "licensed houses" do any good in this case? Has the franchise for women done any good? Has the organising into unions solved the problem? Apparently not.

Are they likely to do so, seeing that it is a case of keeping up the profits for the master class?

He will not part with any of his considerable gains, for the sake of allowing girls enough to keep them, in ordinary food, clothing and shelter.

This is clearly proven, and held down the position stands out clear. While capitalism exists this state of affairs will continue.

Having realised this, what are you men going to do about it?

This is not a vague shadowy danger which may or may not eventuate, it is substantial, it is here, menacing you every day. How many women of the working class can afford to keep their daughters at home. They must go to work, it is essential that they keep themselves, and often assist their families, and we have tried to point out the probable result.

Do you women never realise and regret the possible, nay, probable destiny of the baby girls that you bear?

Is it not bad enough to see your children sweated and exploited, chained to the loom of industry, wasting their lives and talents in producing gold to fill the gaping coffers of their masters. Producing every good thing of life, producing all the wealth of the world, is it not bitter and hard enough for them to have to sell their labor power, without having to add, to sell their bodies?

Is there anything more heartrending than the idea of a poor little girl, sacrificing her body for a pair of shoes?

And the terrible part of it is that the



# The Russian Revolution.

## A Review and a Retrospect.

Compiled by J. A. D., W. H., J. B. S.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE.)

While Western Europe had heard all about the Armenian massacres, the massacre of Central Asian Muslims had been studiously hidden. The Czar's Government had called upon the Kirghiz (who were mostly nomadic tribes, pasturing herds of cattle, etc., in that belt of country between the Cossack territory and China) to serve in the army. War had gone on spasmodically every fifty years or so between them and the Russians; with primitive savage instincts they had fought bravely against the Cossacks stealing any of their territory. The Kirghiz rebelled against conscription, and in 1916 out of 2,000,000 Kirghiz, 500,000 were massacred, and 1,000,000 fled into China. The Provisional Government had not yet been able to control those colonists, and Cossacks who had occupied the Kirghiz lands. The Kirghiz came back from China after the revolution and in some districts civil war was on between them and the Cossacks. The Chinese officials would not allow them back into China. But in many districts the Revolution had already succeeded in making peace between the Russian colonists and the Kirghiz. When the revolution came the two races living side by side on the steppes elected their revolutionary committees, and began to work together, and were engaged in working out a common land programme to protect their joint interests.

Among the cotton workers in Fergana, Russian Turkestan, trade unions were formed, which worked in close contact with the local Russian Council of Workers' and Soldiers' Delegates. The Russian garrisons in Central Asia were strongly imbued with Bolshevism. After the Korniloff rebellion, the Tashkent capital of Turkestan Council arrested the representatives of the Provincial Government and established itself as a permanent committee of public safety, claim-

ing sole executive power. She couldn't go without shoes, and she MUST go, so she ruined herself in order that she be able to produce more profits for the master class.

Men and women of the working class, the remedy is in your own hands. While you allow yourselves to be gulled and deceived by reform tactics, while you men prate about craft unionism, and you women talk about "Women Workers' Associations," "Women's Peace Armies," and the like, your children are crying shame on you.

Will you never realise that the patching up of the rotten fabric of capitalism means so many more nails driven in the coffin of your liberty, and many more of your daughters forced out on to the street?

When you decide to have done with the master class, to forget your sex quarrels, and remember that you are all members of the working class; when you rise in your might and exclaim: "The world for the workers," then will the capitalist tremble in his shoes, and the day of emancipation will dawn. While you are wavering these horrors are going on, in your free and democratic Empire.

"Upon the Labour Mart

Some bring fair flesh for sale,  
And others bring fair fame;  
Some cheeks with want are pale,  
And others red with shame.

Some sell their lives for bread,  
Some sell their souls for gold;  
Some seek the river bed,  
Some seek the workhouse mould.

Such is proud England's sway,  
Where wealth may work its will;  
White flesh is cheap to-day,  
White souls are cheaper still.

Where thieves old age have banished  
From reverence or rest,  
Where shame hath laid its hand  
Upon the girl child's breast.

Fellow workers, this is the cry of the women of your class to-day. How long are you going to allow them to appeal in vain?

ing sole executive power.

As an instance of how the capitalist papers interpret in their ignorance news cabled out, and issue it in a false manner, the following from the Melbourne "Herald" of September 21st, 1917, is of interest:

"There are rumors of a rising by the followers of M. Bolshevik, the reactionary leader, but confidence is expressed that it will not eventuate in ten days."

That is how the "Herald" interpreted the news that the Bolsheviks were organising on being strongly represented at the great democratic assembly to be opened at Petrograd on September 27th. Another message in the "Age" said that: "General Bolsheviks is giving his support to the extremists."

The Great Democratic Assembly opened at the Winter Palace, attended by all the Ministers of the Provisional Government and 1200 delegates representing the Soviet (Council of Workers' and Soldiers' Delegates) of Petrograd, Moscow, and other cities; the Peasants' Council of Petrograd; the Soviet and Peasants' District Councils; the co-operative associations, the professional associations, and various unions such as the chemists, postal employees, teachers and railwaymen who were not represented directly on the Soviet delegation. Nicholas Lenin was elected delegate by the Soviet, and the Government, in reply to their demands for the inviolability of M. Lenin at the Congress, said that he would not be arrested in the Hall of Congress, but would be apprehended if found outside the hall. The Bolsheviks, therefore, decided not to bring Lenin to the Congress. Kerensky issued an order to the criminal investigator to employ the militia to arrest Lenin and Zinoviev, an associate in the Bolshevik agitation, and treat them as common criminals. Since Lenin had escaped in July, he and his associates had been carrying on propaganda among the peasants which had been very successful.

At this Congress the Bolsheviks had a majority, and Kerensky in a speech in which he strove hard to justify himself, and denied that he desired a dictatorship, did not get a good reception from the Socialists. Trotsky, who had been elected President of the Council of Workers' and Soldiers' Delegates, in a speech which created a sensation, and which was interrupted by Cadet's representatives, was enthusiastically applauded by the Soviet delegates. Trotsky said that the Bolsheviks did not want civil war, but that it seemed it would be unavoidable unless the original mandate of the Revolution—the bringing about of a German revolution through an Allied re-statement of war aims, was carried out.

But the Government would not listen to the Bolsheviks; and an agreement was reached by them, the Minimalists and the bourgeoisie elements, and a new Cabinet was formed comprising six Socialists and eleven representatives of other parties. The Bolsheviks declared that the delegates of the Democratic Assembly had disobeyed instructions: "We said that a coalition with the Cadets was impossible, and that M. Kerensky's irresponsibility must be stopped," they declared. "Instead, they coalesce with the Cadets, and strengthen M. Kerensky's irresponsibility."

What the Bolsheviks' aims were was stated by Leon Trotsky in an interview in the New York "World." Trotsky stated: "We, the Bolsheviks, want an immediate peace, but not a separate peace. We speak for the mass of the army, which refuses to remain another winter in the trenches unless they are convinced that an immediate democratic peace is possible with Germany. But in demanding an immediate peace we find it inevitable that Russia act alone because we believe that is the only way to get quick action. If the present Government refuses to act—then we must have a Government which will. We intend, by every possible means, including millions of proclamations dropped by aeroplanes, to urge the German people to revolt and join us in the demand for peace."

"Suppose the Germans fail to revolt

and pay no attention to your offers?"

"Then every soldier in the Russian army will know he is fighting to save the revolution, and that he does not know now. I know the state of mind of the army. I received delegations daily, and they demand that every effort be made for an immediate peace, or they will leave the trenches. If Germany refuses, they will fight like lions. We must keep our promises by giving big estates to the peasants to end the present agrarian revolution. Second, we must force loans from the banks and the wealthy men to the limit of their resources. Then we shall have an army knowing what it is fighting for, and provided with every need. On this programme we Bolsheviks demand an immediate action."

Nicholas Lenin was also very plain and emphatic; he said: "I cannot protest too energetically against the slanderous statements spread by capitalists against the Bolshevik party to the effect that we are in favor of a separate peace with Germany. To us the capitalists of Germany are plain pirates, like the capitalists of Russia, England and France. Emperor William is a crowned robber like the rulers of other nations. If we are opposed to the prolongation of the present war it is because it is being waged by two groups of powers for purely imperialistic purposes. It is waged by capitalists anxious to increase their profits by extending their domination over the world, conquering new markets, and subjugating small nations. Every day of the war adds to the profits of the financier and merchant, but spells ruin and exhaustion for the industrial and agricultural workers of all the nations, belligerent or neutral. As far as Russia is concerned, a prolongation of the war may jeopardise the success of the revolution and prevent it from attaining its ultimate goal."

"The assumption of governmental powers by the Kerensky administration, an administration dominated by landowners and capitalists, could not and does not modify the character and significance of the war waged by Russia. We might adduce as evidence of it that the present administration not only refused to reveal the secret compacts signed by Nicholas II. with the Governments of England, France and other nations, but formally confirmed those secret covenants which guaranteed Russian capitalists their share of the dismemberment of China, Persia, Turkey, Austria, etc. By failing to reveal the nature of these arrangements the Kerensky administration is keeping the nation in ignorance of the actual aims of the present war."

Lenin placed no faith in the statements that there would be no annexations. He said: "Capitalists, bound together as they are by the thousand ties of business, could not renounce the idea of annexations, for they could not give up the profits accruing to them from war loans, concessions, war industries, etc. We must warn the nation against the empty promises of the capitalists, and draw a clear distinction between words and facts in the question of annexation."

"The so-called Revolutionary Group for National Defence, which comprises all nationalistic groups of Russia, National Socialists, Labor Party, Opportunists, Tscheidse, Tseretelli, etc., also a large number of independent revolutionists, presents a definite class bias. It counts among its members, on one side, many well-to-do farmers, small landlords, who, like capitalists proper, derived profits from the enslavement of small nations, and, on the other hand, industrial and agricultural workers, who are in no way interested in capitalist exploitation, but are laboring under a misapprehension created by capitalists."

"We absolutely refuse to compromise in any way with that group, as it would mean the abandonment of all the principles of International Socialism. We intend to exert our energies to the utmost in order to make it clear to the masses of the population that the intimate relation existing between the Kerensky Government and the capitalists are the most insuperable object to the conclusion of an early peace."

M. Lenin stated that to secure an early peace without resorting to violent means must be done in a purely democratic way; he said: "I must state at first that a mere refusal to fight on the part of the soldiers of one belligerent army or cessation of hostilities on one side of the line will not put an end to the war. The war must be fought on by a different military organization, not by an army organized as the present army is, but by a militia whose members shall receive for their services

## The Russian Social Democrats.

By PETER SIMONOFF.

(continued.)

Though the Russian Proletariat were well organised for this present revolution, nevertheless being the S.D.'s, the most convinced Marxian, they did not think of a complete establishment of Socialism in the present revolution. They thought that this revolution, as the industries in Russia were not developed enough, it would only be a Bourgeois Revolution, that is, that the autocratic rule would be changed under a capitalistic system, under the rule of the bourgeoisie. Therefore their demands were:—

- (1) Democratic Republic.
- (2) Eight Hours Day.
- (3) Confiscation of all land properties.

But at the same time they contended that the revolution must not be stopped half way. It must be fought to the last, and here comes the same as Leibknecht, Senior, that if it is necessary to change our ways of fighting, we can.

Hence the Bolsheviks, or as it is now, all one Social Democratic Party of Russia, are fighting in the present Revolution as they should do thus, their present aims is the Socialism or an Industrial Republic.

Here I must strongly point out that the S.D.'s of Russia are the strongest Marxians—they are not anarchists. They are absolutely opposed to terrorism of any kind. They are the strongest advocates of the abolition of capital punishment. They are absolutely against disorder and riots. If there is some disorder in Russia now, it is fabricated by the capitalists and bourgeois to show that the Bolsheviks are incapable of keeping order. But where there were hundreds of crimes before the Bolsheviks' rule now they are exceptions. But even these are fantastically exaggerated by the plutocratic press.

As there are great odds against the Bolsheviks in and outside of Russia, they might fall now, but they won't fall for long.

They will soon rise again, and they are convinced that sooner or later they will be joined by the proletarians of the whole world. This might seem optimistic. But if we were told twelve months, nay six months ago, that the Bolsheviks were capable of doing what they've done, it would have seemed optimistic also. It is not surprising now for anybody that they are to-day in a position to establish Socialism in Russia.

It would have been optimistic six months ago.  
Continued on page 4.

wages equal to those of a first class working man. The officers of the militia should be elected by the soldiers, and subject to recall, and every order of the officers or generals should be approved by a vote of the men. For it is only elected officers whom the men can be expected to obey and respect.

Encourage fraternising to win the war.

"In order that the soldiers be better fed, the repartition of the land should be arranged for as soon as possible by the Council of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies, and the supply of bread and meat thereby increased. Finally, we must encourage at once every attempt made by the soldiers on both sides of the line to fraternise, in order that these instinctive manifestations of solidarity may ripen into a conscious organised movement to place the Governmental owners of every belligerent nation in the hands of the revolutionary proletariat who alone can restrain the whip-hand of capitalism."

"This will be the only democratic way to put an end to this war. That is why the Bolsheviks shall continue patiently, but stubbornly, to make it clear to the people that wars are waged by governments, and that wars are always waged in the interests of one special class."

The Russians continued to fraternise with the enemy. The Bolsheviks were angry because the leaders of the July revolt were still in prison without a trial. A Cossack deputation warned Kerensky to keep independent of the Soviets instead of subordinating himself. Kerensky began to learn that there are only two main classes in society, and that he who tried to steer a middle course, to serve one and gull the other, could not succeed in his attempt. He complained that the Soviets considered him a despot and a friend of the bourgeoisie.

(To be continued.)

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THE RUSSIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.  
Continued from Page 3.

ago to say that the Bolsheviks were capable of managing the social life of 180 millions of people, especially at such a perilous time and in a country which was ruined by the previous rulers. They are blamed because we read about them in the plutocratic press, and because they are working for the abolition of plutocracy.

Could the plutocrats praise their most deadly enemies? Of course not. Hence it is quite natural to see in their press all the horrible things about the Bolsheviks. History will show that the Bolsheviks are the most honest, the most humanitarian, self-sacrificing, undaunted, determined fighters for freedom, for equality, for the brotherhood of all humanity, and for the common good of everybody. They are fighting for the common ownership of all the means of production, for equal and just distribution of all commodities, and for the abolition of exploitation of every kind. They are fighting for the industrial republic of all nations federated together for the common good.

(Conclusion.)

## A. S. P.

### NEWS AND NOTES.

#### MELBOURNE NOTES.

On Tuesday, April 9, a monster meeting was held at the V.S.P. Hall, protesting against the forcible deportation of Italians to the wife. No reports of this meeting were made by the "Age," which gave great prominence to the loyalist meeting at the Exhibition, where the statement was made that: "Nobody desires to see lynch law here, as was recently shown in America, but even lynch law is better than a toleration of impudent rebellion." Under such guise is a covert appeal made to "loyalists" to do violence to fellow citizens when they exercise their constitutional privileges of political expression of their just grievances. When talk is on about law abiding, let these stay at home patriots look to the beam in their own eye, and remember a majority of the "poor fellows" in the trenches voted against the infamous conscription proposals.

Recently Fred. Holland was fined £100 or six months in gaol for having in his possession a copy of a pamphlet, being an extract from Kirkpatrick's "War, what for?" which book was excluded from Australia by that champion of freedom, to wit, Labor mis-leader Frank Tudor, when the Labor Party was in power at the beginning of the war. Now Fred. Riley, a member of the V.S.P., and a strong supporter of Mr. Tudor, is up on a similar charge. We wonder how long these supporters of the Labor Party will suffer from the acts of the Labor Party before they strike back and help the A.S.P. to expose the Labor Party's traitorous acts to Labor and Freedom.

On the report of the unity fiasco, our Melbourne paraphraser selected the following from Bill of Avon to fit the case:

"Let me not live in the S.L.P.," quoth quoth the Revolutionary Spirit,

"Let me not live in the S.L.P.,"  
Where my flame lacks oil,  
Where the grey-heads snuff out  
Younger spirits, whose enthusiasm and optimism

All but revolution disdain! whose judgments

Reject pessimism and womanish wailings."

This the Revolutionary Spirit wished:  
I after it do wish, too,

Since the S.L.P. nor wax nor honey can bring home,

It quickly were dissolved from Labor's hive,

To give the fighting A.S.P. room,  
Where no fantastic domination of individuals take place

To backward pull the revolutionary organisation.

Comrade Mark Finley gave a splendid lecture at the A.S.P. Hall, 47 Victoria street, on Sunday night on the real cause of the high cost of living and the remedy. The lecture was well attended. Workers in Melbourne would do well to come along on Sunday night at 7.30 and

regularly hear the true message of organisation, and so miss the blind alleys and false moves they have hitherto followed. The real cause of the high cost of living is the depreciation in the value of gold, as mirrored in almost all other commodities. Gold being the standard of price makes it appear that it is all other commodities that have risen in value mirrored in the universal equivalent form of value—gold. Owing to greater efficiency in gold production, gold is now produced with less socially necessary labor power than formerly; hence is cheaper than most other commodities; hence exchanges for a smaller quantity of other commodities than formerly. Lately while the war is on, other commodities have become inflated in value all the world over to a greater degree owing to the increased cost of production; transport is part of production, and the sabotage practised by the German submarines in destroying shipping and the cargoes of commodities increases the average cost of production of the commodities that safely reach their destination; that is, the losses have to be spread over the rest—thus the average cost of production is much higher. Political protests and fixation of prices avail nothing, the only remedy is to so organise industrially that the workers may, while the capitalist system still exists, keep wages up in proportion as the cost of living rises; this they fail to do now, organised as they are into craft unions, which at present are patterned after business, and are but job trusts controlled by labor lieutenants of the capitalist class, and lack the basis, principles and structure of a real, all-embracing workers' union. Trade unions, as at present, offer no remedy for the problem confronting the people of our day. The history of "Organised Labor" is a continuous illustration of its hindrance to real progress, and its support of capitalism.

Gold as the medium of exchange is only necessary in a commodity producing society. So soon as society is organised that things are produced for use and not for profit, then only the power of gold ceases to rule.

Money is the absolutely social form of wealth. It can readily buy every other form of wealth. Therein lies its power. Its erstwhile social function has been converted by the logic of history into private power. From having been a hand-maiden of the commodity, money has become its master. No profit, no production! All this has come about because what is at bottom a social relation of men has taken the form of a relation of things. They control. Man merely represents them. His ownership is only a judicial relation, a mere reflection of the economic relation of things. He is controlled. Gold is the exclusive thing of things, because it is the incarnation of all labor. It appears as a fetish created by man's hands, ruling him in his material affairs, as the creations of his mind rule him in religion. A period of unemployment sets in for workers. The Fetish wills it! Vocational disease attacks the breadwinner. The Fetish wills it! The storm clouds of panic gather over the heads of the capitalists. Like a desperate wolf the creditor flies at the throat of the debtor. What! Commodities! What! Personal honesty! They are all sham. There is nothing real but gold; there is no protection but the Fetish! But the real Fetish is not the yellow, glittering gold which dazzles the eyes; behind it, more concealed from view is the arch-fetish, its parent—the commodity. The real power is the ownership of the tools and means of production—the owners of which produce for exchange and profit and not for use.

Man's emancipation from his fetish, which will be accomplished by his passing out of the commodity producing form of society, means that he has ceased to be the unconscious object of evolution, and that he has arrived at the point when he will be the master of his destiny. With that he passes definitely out of the animal kingdom, the free man.

This can only be done by the toilers coming together into one Great Industrial Union. Without the Industrial Union there can be no Industrial Democracy, there can be no Socialism.

This can only be done by an organisation aiming steadily at the complete overthrow of the capitalist wage system, with the object of taking and holding for the workers all means of production and distribution.

The Workers' International Industrial Union puts forth a plan for the Industrial Democracy under which no fetish can rule. Workers! Come and join with us to speed the day to Freedom.

Press Correspondent.

## SYDNEY BRANCH.

Sydney Branch is still progressing on its way. The stopping of propaganda meetings has greatly hindered activities, of course; but we are running our Sunday night meetings as usual, and doing as much incidental propaganda as possible.

Comrade Pat Drew occupied the platform on Sunday, 14th April. Com. Drew is always interesting, and he by no means fell below the usual standard last night; his subject was "Industrial Matters," and for an hour he took us over the ground with a vengeance. The discussion mainly verged round as to whether the workers paid taxes, and as to direct action versus indirect action. Things became slightly heated, but a real interesting evening was spent.

At the last meeting of the Branch, the following resolution was carried unanimously:—That this Branch expresses its entire confidence in Com. Reardon and Com. Everitt with regard to their conduct in the recent Unity Negotiations.

MARCIA REARDON,  
Secretary.

## WAGES DEFINED.

Captain George Gates tells the following story—

"Once upon a time a man and his dog were lost in a far deep desert. They were without food. The dog was a good and useful animal, and had always been a good pal. Consequently, though the man was consumed with gnawing hunger, he did not want to kill the dog. Finally, he hit upon the scheme of cutting off the dog's tail—a large, juicy one—and using it for food. Curtailment duly followed this economic discovery, and the tail was cooked and eaten. In this manner the man's life was saved. When he had picked the bones quite clean of their nutriment, he fed them to the dog, and thus saved its life, and himself."

"Well?" questioned George's listeners.

"Well, those bones—them's wages!"

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Any branch desiring matter published under the above heading, should write clearly what is needed, and forward same to this office.

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All rebels making their way to the "Hill" will receive a welcome at the above address.

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J. M. BROWNIE, Secretary  
Railway Street,  
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## IMPORTANT.

When ordering literature it is well to add the cost of registration (3d.). This is necessary to guarantee delivery.

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